

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

A Sub 1 1. A method of facilitating a user's review of ^{previously recorded} audio
2 program material over at least two review sessions, the
3 audio program material having been communicated to the
4 user over a communication network, the method comprising
5 the steps of:
6 monitoring a user's progress in the user's review
7 of audio program material during a first review session;
8 and
9 when the user terminates the first review session,
10 storing an indication of the user's progress in
11 reviewing the program material during that session.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step
2 of an audio program service furnishing said audio
3 program material to said user over a communication
4 channel.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said communication
2 channel comprises a data network.

1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein said communication
2 channel comprises a telephone network.

1 5. The method of claim 2, wherein said communication
2 channel comprises a wireless communication channel.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said steps are
2 implemented by a user's personal appliance.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said audio program
2 material is stored on CD-ROM.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said steps are

1 implemented by a communications network-based service.

A *SubB* 1 9. A method of facilitating a user's *previously recorded* review of audio
2 program material over at least two review sessions, the
3 audio program material having been communicated to the
4 user over a communication network, the method comprising
5 the steps of:

6 monitoring a user's progress in the user's review
7 of audio program material, said monitoring performed
8 during a first audio program review session;

9 when the user terminates the first audio program
10 review session, storing an indication of the user's
11 progress in reviewing the program material during that
12 session;

13 in a second audio program review session subsequent
14 to the termination of said first program review session,
15 playing said audio program material to said user
16 beginning from a position within said material
17 determined based on said stored indication.

1 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step
2 of an audio program service furnishing said audio
3 program material to said user over a communication
4 channel.

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6 11. The method of claim 10, wherein said communication
7 channel comprises a data network.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein said communication
2 channel comprises a telephone network.

1 13. The method of claim 10, wherein said communication
2 channel comprises a wireless communication channel.

1 14. The method of claim 9, wherein said steps are
2 implemented by a user's personal appliance.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said audio program
2 material is stored on CD-ROM.

1 16. The method of claim 9, wherein said steps are
2 implemented by a communications network-based service.

A Sub C3
1 17. A method of creating a bookmark for use with an
2 audio service that provides ~~previously recorded~~ sequential audio information
3 comprising the steps of:
4 associating a user code with a user of the audio
5 service;
6 monitoring a present location of the user in a
7 sequence of audio information in an access to the audio
8 service;
9 detecting a termination of the access to the audio
10 service;
11 creating a termination code defining the present
12 location of the user in said sequence at the time the
13 termination is detected;
14 correlating the user code and the terminating code;
15 and
16 storing the result of said correlating step.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein a service
2 identifying code is associated with each audio service;
3 and said step of correlating further includes the step
4 of associating a service identifying code with said user
5 code and said termination code.

1 19. The method of claim 17, wherein said step of
2 monitoring comprises the steps of loading a register
3 with an initialization value at the start of the service
4 and updating the register as the audio information is
5 presented.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein said audio
2 information is divided into discrete blocks of
3 information and wherein said step of updating includes
4 the step of revising the contents of said register to
5 hold a block identifier corresponding to the block of
6 information being conveyed by the service at that time.

1 21. The method of claim 19, wherein said register
2 stores the time elapsed from the beginning of the
3 providing of the audio information.

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1 22. A method of providing audio services using a
2 bookmark comprising the steps of:
3 generating a menu of a plurality of audio services;
4 detecting a selection of one of said plurality of
5 audio services;
6 transmitting *previously recorded* audio information from the selected
7 audio service;
8 monitoring a user's position in the selected audio
9 service as the corresponding audio information is
10 transmitted;
11 detecting a termination of the selected audio
12 service that occurs prior to completion of said service;
13 creating and storing a bookmark that identifies a
14 user, the selected service and the user's position in
15 the selected service at the time of termination;
16 subsequently accessing said bookmark; and
17 returning the user to the location of the selected
18 service based on said bookmark.

1 23. The method of claim 22, wherein said selected audio
2 service comprises a plurality of discrete blocks of
3 audio information, each block having a unique block
4 identifier wherein said step of tracking comprises the
5 step of temporarily storing the block identifier of a
6 discrete block of audio information as that information

7 is transmitted.

1 24. The method of claim 22, wherein said step of
2 monitoring comprises the step of monitoring an elapsed
3 time from a time at which said transmitting step begins.

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1 25. An audio information service platform comprising:
2 an audio content database;
3 a personal profile database;
4 a program playback module coupled to said
5 audio content database;
6 a playback position monitor coupled to said
7 program playback module; and
8 a service controller creating a user
9 identifier, and storing an audio content identifier and
10 a playback position identifier with said user identifier
11 in said personal profile database.

1 26. The platform of claim 25, wherein said audio
2 content database stores an audio information for a
3 plurality of audio services.

1 27. The platform of claim 26, further comprising a
2 service menu module, coupled to said service controller
3 and identifying an audio service in said audio content
4 database that is desired by a user.

1 28. The platform of claim 27, wherein said service menu
2 module advises said service controller of a desired
3 starting point for an identified audio service.

1 29. The platform of claim 25, further comprising a user
2 ID module that identifies a service user and wherein
3 said service controller searches said personal profile
4 database for data relating to an identified service
5 user.

1 30. The platform of claim 29, wherein said service
2 controller is coupled to said program playback module to
3 initiate a resumption of an audio program at a location
4 defined by a playback position identifier associated
5 with an identified service user in said personal profile
6 database.